

Meeting of the Board of Aldermen

March 30, 2008

Starting Time: 1:30 PM

Ending Time: 3:00 PM

Present: Alderman Bolton, Alderman Cox, Alderman Deane, Alderman McCarthy, Alderman McLaughlin, Alderman Flynn, Alderman Cookson, Alderman Tamposi, Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Teeboom, Alderman Tabacsko

Present from the Board of Education: Mr. Kelley, Mr. Dowd, Mrs. Ziehm, Mrs. Kwan, Mr. Hallowell, Mr. Mosher, Mr. Hogan.

Also Present: Mayor Lozeau, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. McNamee, Mr. Hottel, Mr. Mealey, Mr. Flygare

Discussion: Board of Education negotiator Tom Flygare reviewed the status of negotiations between the Board of Education and the Nashua Teachers' Union. The current proposals from each side were explained as follows:

Contract Year	Initial Board of Education Proposal	Current Union Proposal	Current Board of Education Proposal
1	46,182,232	46,186,232	46,186,232
2	49,710,530	48,818,847	48,682,492
3	52,075,780	52,335,686	52,031,685
4	54,545,190	56,054,773	55,663,497
5 (Possible)	X	59,165,770	58,752,821
4 Year Total	\$202,513,732.00	\$203,395,538.00	\$202,563,906.00
5 Year Total	X	\$262,561,308.00	\$261,316,727.00

The Board of Aldermen members asked various questions regarding the impact of these proposals. These questions included what would be needed for the supplemental appropriation, what would be the total cost of the contract, what impact would the contract have on the budget, and how would the contract be funded. These questions were answered by the Board of

Education members, Mr. Flygare, Mr. Hottel, and Mr. Mealey. The Board of Education was proposing to increase its offer to the \$202.5 million level by using an estimated \$325,000 anticipated to be available due to retirements and other savings and a supplemental appropriation of \$425,000. The Board of Education anticipates that the Union would reject that offer because it is looking for a total package of \$203 million. An additional \$175,000 supplemental appropriation would bring the package to \$202.9 million, which might result in an agreement.

The Board of Aldermen members were asked what parameters for the contract they might be able to support. This information was requested because the Nashua Teachers' Union had expressed concern that the Union and the Board of Education would reach an agreement, but the Board of Aldermen may reject it. The Board of Education does not want to agree to something the Board of Aldermen cannot support. Alderman-at-Large Steven Bolton posed a hypothetical question asking whether the Board of Aldermen could support a contract cost of \$202.9 million with a supplemental appropriation of \$600,000 or less. Alderman Clemons expressed his support. Alderman Flynn indicated that he could not support the proposed funding. Alderman MacLaughlin indicated that he was reluctant to agree to the funding level at this time. Mr. Hallowell stated that the Board of Education will need to stay within spending cap parameters for fiscal year 2010 and that this will be difficult with the proposed contract. Alderman Teeboom stated that he could support the funding with the following conditions: 1) meeting the Mayor's guidelines: no increase in wages the first year of the contract; 2) a supplemental appropriation not to exceed \$600,000, 3) no increase in the FY09 city budget to exceed the Spending Cap under any agreement, 4) no increases above the Spending Cap limit in the school budgets for each year over the life of the contract; and 5) no evergreen clause. Mayor Lozeau also indicated support for the proposed contract funding if the school board agreed to stay within those parameters.

Alderman-at-Large Steven Bolton restated the hypothetical question to ask which aldermen would not support a contract cost of \$202.9 million with a supplemental appropriation of \$600,000 or less. No one raised their hand in response that question. Mr. Hallowell noted that individuals may not wish to respond and that the Board of Education should not assume that silence signifies assent. Alderman Bolton then rephrased the question asking who will support a contract and appropriation at those levels. By a show of hands, Aldermen Bolton, Cox, McCarthy, McLaughlin, Tamposi, Wilshire, Clemons, and Tabacsko indicated in the affirmative. Alderman Teeboom asked a clarifying question and then indicated his support, contingent on the five conditions he cited earlier.

Superintendent Hottel restated that the overriding goals of the school district are to ensure the safety of the students and not divide the community.

Alderman Clemons then asked if there was a concensus of the board. Mr. Dowd asked Alderman Tamposi and Alderman Cookson if they had agreed to the hypothetical funding. Alderman Tamposi indicated that he had raised his hand. Alderman Cookson stated that he could not commit to any proposed funding until he had all of the final contract numbers.